

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for reviewing the present application.

A total of 69 claims remain in the present application. The foregoing amendments are presented in response to the Office Action dated July 22, 2010, wherefore reconsideration of this application is requested.

By way of the above-noted amendments, claim 1 has been amended to define that "data frames are received via an attachment interface having a service instance identifier, and wherein the service instance identifier is associated with the connection such that data frames received via the attachment interface are forwarded through the connection". Independent claims 57, 70, 110, 111, 158, 162 and 175 have been amended in a directly analogous manner. Claim 50 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 51, which has been cancelled to avoid redundancy.

Support for the amended independent claims may be found in previous claims 50 and 51.

Referring now to the text of the Office Action:

- claims 1-3, 12-23, 28, 48-50, 57-60, 70-72, 81-92, 97, 110-113, 122-129, 131-133, 138, 156-158, 162-165, 171 and 175 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the teaching of United States Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0213235(Marshall et al.) in view of United States Patent Application Publication No. 2010/0290343(Tanaka et al.);
- claim 51 is objected to as dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.; and
- claims 52-53 are allowed.

Applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 52 and 53, and the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claim 51.

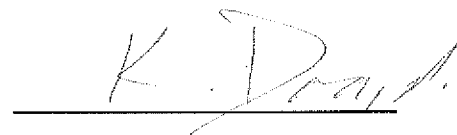
As noted above, independent claim 50 has been amended in incorporate the subject matter of claim 51. Accordingly, claim 50 is now believed to be allowable.

Similarly, independent claims 1, 57, 70, 110, 111, 158, 162 and 175 have been amended to define the association between the attachment interface, the service instance identifier, and the connection, all of which are defined in previous claim 51. Accordingly, it is believed that independent claims 1, 57, 70, 110, 111, 158, 162 and 175 and their dependencies, are now believed to be allowable.

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections under 36 U.S.C. § 103 is therefore requested.

Applicant requests early reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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